

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner objected to the specification due to informalities, rejected claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stobbe (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,739), and objected to claims 3-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification to correct informalities, cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claim 1 to include subject matter from canceled claims 2 and 3, amend claims 4 and 5 to change dependency, and amend claims 6-8. Claims 1 and 4-8 remain pending and under current examination.

Regarding the specification, Applicants have amended the Abstract to contain only a single paragraph and less than 150 words. The amended Abstract also does not include "means" phrases. In addition, Applicant has also amended page 3, line 9, and page 11, line 9, to correct informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-6 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has rewritten claim 1 to include subject matter from claims 2 and 3, which formerly depended from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 4-8, as amended, depend from claim 1, and are also in condition for allowance at least due to their dependence from claim 1.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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